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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our visiting Chaplain today is Father Claude Pomerleau from the University of Portland, OR. Father Pomerleau will lead us in prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, Master of the universe and everything in it, Your generosity gives us life, gives us hope, gives us the imagination to envision a world where no child weeps, where violence is a dark memory, where peace is the story of every day and year.

As the gift of this day unfolds, as the creative men and women in this Chamber turn their gifts and talents to making laws that seek to elevate and protect the lives of millions of their fellow Americans, do not let them lose the sweet peace and long vision of this first moment. In the face of so many distractions and challenges, may they be filled with grace and generosity, wisdom and wonder, calm and compassion. Open their hearts, Lord, and open their minds, and fill them with Your love, and make of them beacons of Your light, so that their deliberations this day take this country and this sweet planet ever closer to Your peace and Your joy. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEAHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3217, which is the Wall Street reform legislation. The time until 10 a.m. will be for debate with respect to the Tester-Hutchison amendment dealing with FDIC insurance premiums. At 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to a vote in relation to that amendment. Additional votes are expected to occur throughout the day in relation to amendments to the Wall Street reform bill. Currently, Shelby amendment No. 3826 regarding consumer protection is pending. The next amendment upon disposition of that amendment will be the Sanders amendment regarding an audit of the Federal Reserve. That is amendment No. 3738.

As a reminder, there will be an all-Senators briefing on the START treaty

and related national security issues from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. today. We will remain in session during that time.

We expect to arrive at a time for voting on the Shelby amendment. If not, there will be a motion to table that amendment. We have a lot of amendments to get through, and we are going to work into the night. We have work we need to do tomorrow. So everyone should be aware, we have a lot of issues we have to resolve on this most important legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Republican leader for letting me step forward ahead of him.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I just want to note what a great pride it is in our family to have welcomed the visiting pastor today, Father Claude Pomerleau, who is also my wife Marcelle's brother. He, with the gracious concurrence of our Chaplain, Dr. Black, has opened the Senate on other occasions. But it is with a great deal of pride for both Marcelle and myself when he is here and has a chance to visit with us. Father Pomerleau is a dear friend of all our family and has been a guide and spiritual leader for our family for decades.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a short bio of him by the University of Portland, which even speaks about his clarinet playing, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CAMPUS MINISTRY: REV. CLAUDE POMERLEAU, C.S.C.

Rev. Claude Pomerleau, C.S.C., was born of French Canadian parents in Newport, Vermont on beautiful Lake Memphermagog,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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